

WYMONDHAM  
URBAN DISTRICT



ANNUAL  
REPORT

*for the year*


1952

*of the*

MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH

*together with the*

ANNUAL REPORT  
*of the*  
SANITARY INSPECTOR



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ANNUAL REPORT  
for the year 1952 of the  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
to the WYMONDHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1952 which has been compiled according to the directions of the Minister of Health. Vital statistics and other tabulated data will be found at the conclusion of the report.

Staff and Administration.

The appointment of Mr. F. O. Elliott from the 1st. March, 1952 as assistant Sanitary Inspector has made possible a considerable improvement in the sanitary supervision of your district.

The Norwich Local Health Office of the County Council which I use as my administrative centre for all purposes, has now been in existence for a year and the benefits of the improved accommodation are noticeable. The offices of areas 1, 4 and 5 are all situated here and at the beginning it was thought that some economy of labour might be effected by pooling some of the work. This did not prove practicable however and the three areas now run as separate entities. At the conclusion of the year the position regarding clerical assistance for District Council duties remained unaltered. I can add nothing to what I have said on this subject in previous reports. I trust that effective action will soon be taken to settle this long drawn out question.

General Remarks.

There has been a noticeable easing in the general feeling of frustration which was apparent in the population last year. This is still present but judging by the lessening of industrial disputes and the fewer wage claims, the economic climate is healthier and the people more satisfied. In general, the health of your district has remained satisfactory.

Health Education.

In Western Europe the control of epidemic disease and the lowering of the infant mortality rate has resulted in a remarkable lengthening of the expectation of life. Reference to table 8 which shows the age at which persons died in your community in 1952, shows that the vast majority are 65 and over. Many persons were in their 90's. By contrast, deaths in childhood and adolescence are conspicuous by their absence. Much improvement, however, is still possible in the health of every section of the community. In his report for 1951, Sir John Charles the Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health, points out that the accent in public health work has moved from environmental hygiene to that of the personal health services and he further states that any progress in future will be increasingly dependent on the active participation of the individual.

It is a truism to say that progress always has and always will be opposed by sectional interest but there is less recognition of the fact that apathy towards the raising of health standards is widespread among the very persons who stand to benefit most by improvements and that this apathy largely results from the lack of adequate training and education in early life. Active health education will be the most fruitful in ensuring that modern services and knowledge are used to best advantage.

To-day the public received most of its education in health matters from commercial advertising, the form and text of which is dictated by business considerations. Great play is made of common complaints - "rheumatism", "backache", "sleeplessness", "nervousness" - most of which are in themselves meaningless terms. Much of the education undertaken by health authorities and voluntary agencies has been directed towards securing the early diagnosis of disease and their posters often seem designed to frighten the individual into seeking early advice on trivial symptoms, by implying the horrors of



untreated Venereal Disease, Tuberculosis or Cancer.

Such education, if superimposed on a background of ignorance and uninformed public opinion, can be of little use and may result in a great deal of unnecessary psychoneurosis.

Although the recognition of the importance of health education has grown steadily and many countries including our own, have special bodies devoted to it, the fundamental need has largely been passed by. It is the training of the young child in a healthy way of life and the inculcation in him - perhaps indoctrination would be a better word - of a sane and balanced approach to the question of health.

The school is clearly the place for this most important work. Health education should not be a separate part of the ordinary school curriculum - it should be invisibly interwoven into the fabric of what the child is taught and his physical environment should be so designed as to play an unconscious but effective part in the work. Of these, the former is the most important and costs the least money.

Throughout the 70 schools, mostly small, in area 5, I have seen little evidence that serious attention has been given to integrating health education in the manner described. It appears likely that the training of teachers is itself at fault, for they seldom appear aware of the need for the development of a positive attitude towards health in the schoolchild and there seems to be little guidance coming to them from their superiors in this matter.

#### Population.

The Registrar General estimates your population as 5,614 compared with the 1951 census figure of 5,664. There were 80 live births and 81 deaths giving a natural decrease of 1. It therefore appears that there has been a tendency for movement out of your district.

There were no still births and only one death under one year was recorded, together with a further one in the age group 1 to 5 years. This is a very satisfactory position reflecting credit on the maternity and child welfare services generally and particularly upon the midwives and health visitors who are largely concerned in the day to day work in this field.

#### Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis).

86 cases of notifiable disease were recorded, of which 48 were attributed to measles and 15 to whooping cough. A County Scheme for whooping cough immunisation has now been approved by the Ministry and is expected to be in operation early in 1953.

One case of paralytic and two cases of non-paralytic poliomyelitis occurred.

#### Tuberculosis.

Six new pulmonary and three non-pulmonary cases were notified during the year. The Mass Radiography Unit paid a visit to the Town, in the course of which 1,648 were X-rayed. I am informed that 3 cases of T.B. and 44 cases of other abnormalities were revealed by the survey.

#### Diphtheria Immunisation.

Table 16 (which relates to Area No. 5) shows there has been a considerable increase in the number of children protected against diphtheria. The primary immunisation which should be undertaken at between six and nine months gives a reasonable protection until school age, but it is important for booster doses to be given at school if the immunity of the community as a whole, is to reach a high level. With this in mind work in the schools was stepped up in 1952.

Footnote: Further increase has taken place in the current year, over 1,000 children having been given booster doses up to June, 1953.

### Vaccination against Smallpox.

The proportion of infants vaccinated in Wymondham continues to be very satisfactory, at about 75% of all births.

### Cancer.

Table 18 shows the number of deaths attributed to cancer since 1947 and it will be seen that there is no significant increase in recent years.

### National Assistance Acts 1948/51.

No action has been initiated or taken under section 47 of these Acts during the year.

### Water Supplies.

The Sanitary Inspector on pages 3 and 4 of his report has given details regarding the water supplies. This has generally remained adequate and qualitatively satisfactory throughout the year, but I would draw attention to the fact that it is important to ensure adequate chlorination at all times and particularly while so much work is in progress at the headworks.

The present somewhat haphazard arrangements of adding a chlorinated solution to the reservoir should be discontinued and a modern automatic plant installed as soon as possible. The installation should be such as to ensure that at all times all the water is suitably treated before being discharged into the mains.

It will be noted that the continued treatment of a few shallow wells with chloros has maintained the water in them in a satisfactory state. For this cheap and easy method to be successful, however, it is essential for a well to be satisfactorily constructed and clean before dosing is commenced.

If these precautions are not observed there is likely to be inter-action between the chlorine and the organic matter present, with the result that the disinfecting action of the chlorine is interfered with and an unpleasant taste may be produced.

On page 5 of his report your Sanitary Inspector has drawn attention to the fact that of the 147 pail closets emptied by the Council, 105 could be converted to the sewer. Some of these properties have outlived their useful life and should be demolished. The services would then be available when the sites are redeveloped. In other cases efforts should continue to secure conversion wherever possible.

### Housing.

The Council housing scheme has gone ahead well during the year and it will be seen from the Sanitary Inspector's report (page 2) that applications for houses have fallen considerably during the year. Among the cases rehoused were some 11 families living in grossly overcrowded conditions.

Tabulated figures showing the number of cases of statutory overcrowding known to your officers are given for the first time in your Sanitary Inspector's report and I hope this will continue to be a feature of it, so long as any cases remain.

During the year three demolition orders were made. These are the first orders made since the war ended seven years ago, and I pointed out in my report for 1951 that the time is ripe for clearance work to be recommenced.

The housing survey has so far uncovered 127 properties which in the opinion of your officers are fit only for demolition. A further 125 have been recorded as in need for major repairs but attention to these will doubtless have to wait upon the revision of the Rent Restrictions Acts. In the meantime, deterioration must continue at a rate greater than would otherwise be the case.

### Swimming Baths.

Frequent routine sampling has been undertaken at the private enterprise



swimming bath in the town.

This small undertaking is such that it would be unreasonable to require elaborate interchange and treatment plant but the owner has co-operated in ensuring adequate chlorination of the water and samples have all been returned as satisfactory.

#### Fluoridation of Water Supply.

As I stated in my Annual Report for 1951, the fluorine content of the water supply of the town is 0.1 parts per million.

When one considers that epidemiological studies in the United States have shown that in "fluorine" areas there was about 60% less dental caries among children aged 12 to 14 years and about six times as many children had permanent teeth free from caries, there can surely be no justification for not pressing on expeditiously with the fluoridation of water supplies where fluorine is lacking.

The severe shortage of dentists and the plight of the school dental service merely serve to accentuate the need for avoiding any delay.

The expert committee recommends that initially in this country, areas should be selected as study areas. While I agree that some areas should be considered as research projects, I see no reason whatever why the benefit which appears undoubted should not be extended widely. In a community such as your own and in these circumstances I would have thought that the only reasonable requirement would be that the present incidence of dental caries in your community should be determined, so that objective assessment of the local value of the procedure can be made in future years.

I would strongly recommend the Council to investigate this matter fully, with a view to incorporating the necessary equipment in the new head works.

Footnote: The report of the Government Mission sent to the United States in February, 1952 has now been published. This comprehensive report is an interesting document which concludes that definite and considerable benefit could be expected from the fluoridation of water supplies where the natural fluorine content is less than 1.0 part per million. The cost of the procedure would be a few pence per person, per annum.

I would like to express my thanks to Council members for their co-operation to Mr. T. J. Turner, Mr. R. F. Hudson and Mr. F. O. Elliott and other officers of the Council for their willing assistance and to the staff of my County Office, for the very considerable time and help they have given me in the preparation of this report.

A. E. BROWN,  
M.D., B.S., D.P.H.

Table 1. GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres).	10,950.
Estimated Resident Population.	5,614.
Rateable Value.	£23,468.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate.	£90.

Table 2. LIVE BIRTHS.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate.	31.	47.	78.
Illegitimate.	1.	1.	2.
Total:	32.	48.	80.

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated Resident Population

Wymondham Urban District	14.2
Area 5	15.6

Table 3. STILL BIRTHS.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate.	-	-	-
Illegitimate.	-	-	-
Total:	-	-	-

Still Birth rate per 1,000 total births

Wymondham Urban District	0.0
Area 5	28.0

Table 4. DEATHS (All ages).

Males.	Females.	Total.
44.	37.	81.

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated Resident Population

Wymondham Urban District	14.07
Area 5	12.63

Table 5. INFANT MORTALITY (Deaths of Infants under One Year).

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate.	-	1.	1.
Illegitimate.	-	-	-
Total:	-	1.	1.

Infant Mortality per 1,000 Live Births

Wymondham Urban District	12.5
Area 5	28.8

Note: Area 5 comprises Depwade and Loddon Rural Districts and Diss and Wymondham Urban Districts.

Table 6. CAUSE OF DEATH OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System.	-	1.	1.
23. Pneumonia.	-	-	-
31. Congenital Malformations.	-	-	-
34. Accidents.	-	-	-
Total:	-	1.	1.

Table 7. CAUSE OF TOTAL DEATHS ( Registrar-General ).

	Males.	Females.	Total
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory.	-	-	-
2. Tuberculosis, other.	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease.	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria.	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough.	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections.	-	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis.	-	-	-
8. Measles.	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases.	-	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach.	3.	-	3.
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	-	-	-
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast.	-	1.	1.
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus.	-	-	-
14. Other malignant & Lymphatic neoplasms.	6.	4.	10.
15. Leukemia, Aleukemia.	-	-	-
16. Diabetes.	-	-	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system.	6.	4.	10.
18. Coronary disease, angina.	9.	3.	12.
19. Hypertension with heart disease.	-	1.	1.
20. Other heart diseases.	13.	13.	26.
21. Other circulatory disease.	-	2.	2.
22. Influenza.	-	-	-
23. Pneumonia.	-	-	-
24. Bronchitis.	1.	-	1.
25. Other diseases of respiratory system.	-	1.	1.
26. Ulcer of stomach & duodenum.	-	-	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea.	-	-	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis.	-	1.	1.
29. Hyperplasia of prostate.	2.	-	2.
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations.	-	-	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	2.	5.	7.
33. Motor vehicle accidents.	-	1.	1.
34. All other accidents.	1.	-	1.
35. Suicide.	1.	1.	2.
36. Homicide & operations of war.	-	-	-
Totals:	44.	37.	81.



Table 8. NOTIFICATIONS OF DEATHS DURING THE YEAR 1952.  
(According to Age Groups).

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 1 year.	-	1.	1.
1 and under 5.	-	1.	1.
5 " " 10.	-	-	-
10 " " 20.	-	-	-
20 " " 30.	-	-	-
30 " " 40.	-	-	-
40 " " 50.	1.	1.	2.
50 " " 60.	2.	1.	3.
60 " " 70.	4.	5.	9.
70 " " 80.	10.	4.	14.
80 " " 90.	13.	8.	21.
90 " " 100.	13.	15.	28.
100 and over.	1.	1.	2.
	-	-	-
Total:	44.	37.	81.

Table 9. SUMMARY OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS RATES.

	1947.	1948.	1949.	1950.	1951.	1952.
<u>Live Births (per 1,000 pop).</u>				(97).	(80).	(80).
Wymondham Urban District.	21.3	15.4	15.6	17.2	14.1	14.1
Area No. 5.	18.6	15.7	14.5	14.9	15.4	15.6
England and Wales.	20.5	17.9	16.7	15.8	15.5	15.3
<u>Still Births (per 1,000 total births).</u>					(5).	(Nil)
Wymondham Urban District.	41.3	22.9	22.5	39.6	58.8	0.0
Area 5.	27.8	30.4	27.0	23.0	26.8	28.0
England and Wales.	-	-	-	-	-	22.6
<u>Crude Deaths (per 1,000 pop).</u>				(62).	(84).	(81).
Wymondham Urban District.	11.9	12.8	12.7	11.0	14.8	14.1
Area 5.	12.7	12.9	13.3	12.1	14.0	12.6
England and Wales.	12.0	10.8	11.7	11.6	12.5	11.3
<u>Infant Mortality (per 1,000 live births).</u>				(1).	(4).	(1).
Wymondham Urban District.	0.0	0.0	11.4	10.3	50.0	12.5
Area 5.	32.4	31.8	21.0	14.5	27.5	28.8
England and Wales.	41.9	34.0	32.0	29.8	29.6	27.6

Note: (Table 9) Figures given in brackets are the actual numbers for Wymondham Urban District.

Table 10.

BIRTH-RATES, DEATH-RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, MATERNAL MORTALITY AND CASE-RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1952. PROVISIONAL FIGURES BASED ON QUARTERLY RETURNS.

	England & Wales	160 County Boroughs & Great Towns (including LONDON)	160 smaller Towns (Resident pop. 25,000 - 50,000 at 1951 Cens.	Area 5
BIRTHS.				
	Rates per 1,000 Home Pop.			
Live births	15.3	16.9	15.5	15.6
Still births	0.35	0.43	0.36	0.45
	22.6(a)	24.6(a)	23.0(a)	28.0(a)
DEATHS.				
All Causes	11.3	12.1	11.2	12.6
Typhoid and paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.24	0.28	0.22	0.11
Influenza	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.00
Smallpox	0.00	-	-	0.00
Acute poliomyelitis (including polioencephalitis)	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Pneumonia	0.47	0.52	0.43	0.27
NOTIFICATIONS (CORRECTED)				
Typhoid fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Paratyphoid fever	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.00
Meningococcal infection	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.00
Scarlet fever	1.53	1.75	1.58	0.93
Whooping Cough	2.61	2.74	2.57	2.54
Diphtheria	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.02
Erysipelas	0.14	0.15	0.12	0.15
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	8.86	10.11	8.49	11.88
Pneumonia	0.72	0.80	0.62	1.13
Acute poliomyelitis (including polioencephalitis)				
Paralytic	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.02
Non-Paralytic	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.05
Food-poisoning	0.13	0.16	0.11	0.21
Puerperal pyrexia	17.87(a)	23.94(a)	10.22(a)	4.68(a)
Rate per 1,000 Live Births				
Deaths				
All causes under 1 year of age	27.6(b)	31.2	25.8	28.89
Enteritis and diarrhoea under 2 years of age	1.1	1.3	0.5	3.06

MATERNAL MORTALITY IN ENGLAND & WALES

Intermediate List No. and cause.	Number of Deaths	Rates per 1,000 total (Live & Still Births)	Rates Per Mill. women aged 15-44
All Sepsis of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	61	0.09	-

(Continued overleaf)



Intermediate List Number and cause.	No. of Deaths.	Rates per 1,000 total (Live and Still Births).	Rates per Mill. women aged 15- 44.
All16 Abortion with toxæmia	13.	0.02	1.
Other toxæmias of pregnancy and the puerperium.	147.	0.21.	-
All17 Haemorrhage of pregnancy and childbirth.	59.	0.09	-
All18 Abortion without mention of sepsis or toxæmia.	31.	0.04	3.
All19 Abortion with sepsis.	47.	0.07	5.
All20 Other complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium.	138.	0.20	-

- (a) Per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.  
(b) Per 1,000 related live births.

Table 11. NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (EXCLUDING TUBERCULOSIS).  
(According to Age Groups).

	Under 1	1-2 yrs	3-4 yrs	5-9 yrs	10-14 yrs	15-24 yrs	Over 25	Total.
Scarlet Fever.	-	4.	-	7.	3.	1.	-	15.
Measles.	-	11.	5.	28.	2.	-	2.	48.
Whooping Cough.	-	3.	2.	3.	-	-	-	8.
Pneumonia.	-	-	3	-	-	-	6.	6.
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.	1.
Poliomyelitis (Non-Par).	-	-	-	1.	1.	-	-	2.
Dysentery.	-	-	-	1.	-	-	-	1.
Food Poisoning.	-	-	1.	-	1.	1.	1.	4.
Malaria (Contracted Abroad).	-	-	-	-	-	1.	-	1.
Totals:	-	18.	8.	40.	7.	3.	10.	86.

Table 12. INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES DURING 1952. (Other than  
Tuberculosis).

	QUARTERS.				
	1st.	2nd.	3rd.	4th.	Total.
Scarlet Fever.	2.	-	1.	12.	15.
Measles.	14.	3.	30.	1.	48.
Whooping Cough.	6.	1.	-	1.	8.
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic).	-	-	1.	-	1.
Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic).	-	-	2.	-	2.
Dysentery.	-	1.	-	-	1.
Food Poisoning.	-	1.	3.	-	4.
Malaria (Contracted Abroad).	-	-	1.	-	1.
Pneumonia.	2.	-	2.	2.	6.
Total:	24.	6.	40.	16.	86.

Table 13. TUBERCULOSIS (Details of New Cases during 1952).

Age Period.	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-4.	-	-	1.	-
5-14.	1.	-	-	1.
15-24.	-	-	1.	-
25-34.	-	2.	-	-
35-44.	1.	-	-	-
45-54.	-	-	-	-
55-64	1.	1.	-	-
65+	-	-	-	-
Totals:	3.	3.	2.	1.

Table 14. TUBERCULOSIS (Number of Cases on T.B. Register ended 1952).

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Pulmonary.	16.	9.	25.
Non-Pulmonary.	5.	10.	15.
Total:	21.	19.	40.

Table 15. DETAILS OF NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS FOR LAST FIVE YEARS.

	1948.	1949.	1950.	1951.	1952.
Pulmonary. M.	1.	1.	2.	-	3.
F.	-	-	-	1.	3.
Non-Pulmonary. M.	-	1.	-	2.	2.
F.	-	-	1.	1.	1.
Totals:	1.	2.	3.	4.	9.
Area 5 Total:	25.	34.	31.	36.	43.

Table 16. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The following is the number of notifications of primary and booster injections received during the last three years in respect of Area 5.

	Primary Injections.		Booster Injections.	
	Under 5.	Age 5-14.	Under 5.	Age 5-14.
1952.	371.	95.	15.	589.
1951.	460.	70.	9.	178.
1950.	487.	100.	6.	447.
Total:	1318.	265.	30.	1214.

Table 16(a).

The state of diphtheria immunisations in Area 5 of children born during the years 1949 to 1952 is shown in the following table.

	Area No. 5.			
	1949.	1950.	1951.	1952.
Number of live births registered.	616.	590.	617.	623.
Number of Diphtheria immunisations.	355.	380.	340.	110.
Percentage immunised.	57.6	64.4	55.1	17.6



Table 17.     Vaccination against Smallpox.

The state of vaccination of children born during the years 1949 to 1952 resident in the District and in Area 5, is shown in the following table.

	WYMONDHAM U.D.				AREA 5.			
	1949.	1950.	1951.	1952.	1949.	1950.	1951.	1952.
Number of live births registered.	87.	97.	80.	80.	616.	590.	617.	623.
Number of vaccinations recorded.	46.	56.	62.	60.	349.	345.	377.	342.
Percentage vaccinated.	52.8	57.7	77.5	75.0	56.6	58.4	61.1	54.8

Table 18.     DEATHS DUE TO CANCER. (WYMONDHAM U.D.).

	1947.	1948.	1949.	1950.	1951.	1952.
Number of deaths.	14.	10.	13.	10.	15.	14.
Percentage of total deaths.	21.5	14.0	18.3	16.1	17.8	17.2

Table 18(a).     DEATHS DUE TO CANCER (AREA 5).

	1947.	1948.	1949.	1950.	1951.	1952.
Number of deaths.	59.	83.	82.	84.	86.	82.
Percentage of total deaths.	11.7	16.9	16.8	17.3	15.3	16.3





SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1952.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Wymondham Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report as Sanitary Inspector for the year ended 31st. December, 1952.

Staff.

Your Sanitary Inspector holds in addition the appointments of Highway Surveyor, Building Surveyor and Petroleum Inspector and has the services of a male clerk.

As reported in my last report an additional Sanitary Inspector was appointed in April, 1951, he obtained another post and left the services of the Council on the 31st. December, 1951. Mr. F. O. Elliott, your present additional Sanitary Inspector, took up his duties on the 1st. March, 1952.

Housing.

The Housing Survey has proceeded during the year, 111 cottages being inspected. On applying the Standard of Fitness adopted by the Council in 1951 the cottages fell into the categories shown below. Details for 1951 are also listed.

	1951.	1952.	Total.
Number of houses inspected.	145.	111.	256.
Number of houses fit in all respects.	-	3.	3.
Number of houses repairable at reasonable expense. (Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936).	52.	73.	125.
Number of houses not repairable at reasonable expense. (Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936).	92.	35.	127.
Number of houses, part of which are unsuitable for habitation. (Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936).	1.	-	1.

The undermentioned houses have been re-conditioned during the year after inspection was made during the Housing Survey.

Cottage, Bridewell Street.

2 Cottages, Chandlers Hill (2 cottages made into 1).

3 Demolition Orders were made during 1952 in respect of cottages in Pople Street. It is hoped that the tenants of these cottages will be rehoused and the Orders enforced in 1953.

Repairs have been carried out to 33 properties after informal action, the following work being executed.

Roofs repaired.	6.
Chimney stack rebuilt or repaired.	13.
Plasterwork to walls repaired.	7.
Dampness to walls remedied.	8.
Eaves gutters overhauled.	2.
Windows repaired or renewed.	4.
Doors repaired.	2.
Fireplaces renewed.	2.
Floors repaired or renewed.	3.
Closets repaired.	1.

Improvements have been carried out to 23 properties after information action, the following improvements being made.

- 1 dwelling - addition of new scullery.
- 17 " - water closets in place of vaults or pail-closets.
- 14 " - sinks provided.
- 19 " - main water made available.

3 Bathrooms were also provided.

#### New Housing Progress.

During the year 42 houses were completed and occupied, 35 by the Council and 7 by private enterprise, and at the close of the year 37 were under construction by the Council and 10 by private enterprise.

The position with regard to post-war housing at the end of the year under review was that a grand total of 268 units of habitation had been completed and occupied, 15 temporary and 191 permanent houses built by the Council and 62 by private enterprise. The 191 permanent houses built by the Council are made up as follows:-

- 116 three bedroom houses.
- 11 four bedroom houses.
- 30 bungalows.
- 16 Duplex houses containing 32 units of accommodation.
- 2 shops with flats.

#### Demand for new Houses.

The register of applications for Council houses from persons residing or working in the Urban District showed 149 live applications at 31st. December, 1952. The details of these applications are set out below, along with the figures for the three previous years for comparison:-

	December 1949.	December 1950.	December 1951.	December 1952.
Childless families.	53.	48.	41.	37.
Families with 1 child.	35.	49.	38.	39.
Families with 2 or more children.	44.	57.	57.	32.
Old people requiring bungalows.	50.	54.	56.	41.
	<u>182.</u>	<u>208.</u>	<u>192.</u>	<u>149.</u>

The development of the new housing site at Pople Street has continued during the year, and the following dwellings had either been completed or were in course of erection at the end of the year:-

- 18 bungalows.
- 12 three bedroom houses. (Semi detached).
- 14 Duplex houses. (28 units of habitation).
- 1 Terrace containing 4 three bedroom houses.
- 2 two bedroom flats and 2 one bedroom flats.
- 1 pair of semi-detached houses. (1 four bedroom and 1 three bedroom).

#### Overcrowding.

	<u>Housing Act Standard.</u>	<u>Bedroom Standard.</u>
Cases remaining on register 31.12.51.	1.	Not recorded.
New cases reported 1.1.52 - 31.12.52.	5.	20.
Cases abated 1.1.52 - 31.12.52.		
(a) By action of Local Authority.	1.	10.
(b) Otherwise.	1.	-
Total cases remaining 31.12.52.	4.	10.



## Dirty and Verminous Premises.

<u>Bed Bugs.</u>	Number of visits of inspection.	Nil.
	Number of rooms fumigated.	Nil.
<u>Fleas.</u>	Number of visits of inspection.	8.
	Number of houses fumigated.	1.
<u>Dirty Houses.</u>	Number of visits of inspection.	10.
	Number of houses cleansed.	3.

An unusual case occurred at one of the Council houses. The tenant reported that maggots were coming up through the floor of the living room and sitting room. On inspection this was found to be correct, the maggots were apparently lodged in the cracks between the floor boards. Specimens were taken to the entomologist at Norwich Museum who identified them as maggots of the Brown House Moth. The spaces between the boards were thoroughly raked out and sprayed with gammaxane. No further complaint was received.

## Tents, Vans & Sheds.

There is no camping problem in the Urban District. The few caravans in the area are controlled by the issue of licences under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

## Water.

### (a). Town Supply.

There is a piped water supply in the Urban part of the district with pumping station situate at Wicklewood in the Rural District of Forehoe and Henstead. The undertaking is owned by the Wymondham Urban District Council.

The Headworks comprise two 12" boreholes each 300 feet in depth, equipped with submersible pumps. The water is filtered, softened and chlorinated and the storage reservoir has a capacity of 240,000 gallons.

There are between 12 and 13 miles of mains with diameters of from 3" to 7", serving about 2/3rds. of the total population of the Urban District, by gravity.

The water from the bores has a hardness of 19.6 degrees (17.5 temporary and 2.1 permanent) this is reduced by treatment to about 7 degrees of hardness.

The mains were extended as follows during the year:-

Hewitts Lane 4" main.	87 yards.
Poplar Street Housing Site 3" main.	200 yards.

The work of sinking and testing three new boreholes was completed on the 14th. October and at the end of the year work was about to be commenced on the installation of pumps and necessary pipework to bring the additional bores into use.

The most urgent problem now is the lack of pressure in the mains and on the 31st. December tenders were accepted for the erection of a Booster Station and the installation of two 12½ H.P. booster pumps at Becketswell Road.

At the close of the year your Engineers had been instructed to report on the extension of water mains to serve some of the rural parts of the district.

The result of a chemical analysis of a sample of water taken at the headworks is set out on folio 9

10 samples were taken from the mains for Bacteriological examination and in each case the result was the same, viz:-

"This sample is satisfactory".

Summary of Water Officer's Weekly Reports for the year ended 31st. December, 1952.

<u>Month.</u>	<u>Water Pumped and Softened.</u>	<u>Lime used.</u>
January.	4,516,400.	10,458.
February.	4,852,500.	10,486.
March.	5,804,650.	12,950.
April.	5,026,800.	10,458.
May.	7,104,500.	13,104.
June.	5,594,250.	10,439.
July.	5,958,750.	10,534.
August.	7,431,500.	13,286.
September.	5,765,000.	10,334.
October.	5,629,000.	10,150.
November.	7,016,000.	12,334.
December.	6,036,000.	9,477.
	<u>70,735,350.</u>	<u>134,001.</u>
1951	<u>59,792,750.</u>	<u>152,442.</u>
	<u>10,942,600.</u>	<u>18,441 lbs.</u>

Decrease

= 59 tons 16 cwt. 49 lbs.  
Decrease 8 tons 4 cwt. 73 lbs.

1.8944 lbs. of lime used per 1,000 gallons.

<u>Connections.</u>	<u>From Main to Stop-Cock.</u>	<u>From Stop-Cock to Premises.</u>	<u>Meters Installed.</u>
January.	1.	2.	1.
February.	2.	3.	-
March.	2.	2.	-
April.	2.	7.	-
May.	3.	6.	2.
June.	1.	8.	-
July.	1.	7.	-
August.	3.	6.	-
September.	1.	4.	-
October.	3.	2.	-
November.	2.	6.	-
December.	2.	8.	-
	<u>23.</u>	<u>61.</u>	<u>3.</u>

Parish of Hingham consumed (estimated).	10,625,500	galls.
Parish of Hethersett consumed.	918,210	"
Wymondham alone consumed.	59,191,640	"
Average daily consumption in Wymondham.	162,614	"
Average daily consumption in Hingham.	29,191	"
Average daily consumption in Hethersett.	2,522	"
Consumption through meter (including Hingham and Hethersett).	23,615,096	"
1951.	20,464,392	"
increase of	3,150,704	"

Number of Consumers.

Meters 60. Special arrangement 22. Building Supplies 9.  
Domestic 1344. Total 1435.

(b). Other Supplies.

Simple chlorination of the shallow wells serving two small Council housing estates at Spooner Row (12 houses and 6 houses respectively) was continued as last year but "chloros" instead of chloride of lime was used to chlorinate the wells.



With regular treatment the water maintained a high standard of bacterial purity.

#### Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The system of sewerage in the Town is a partially separate system. It was originally intended that it should be a separate system, but a considerable quantity of storm water now finds its way into the foul sewers.

Foul water and storm water sewer extensions were made during the year on to the new housing site in Pople Street. The lengths involved were 300 yards of 6" storm water sewer and 300 yards of 6" foul water sewer.

A scheme submitted by the Consulting Engineers for extending the sewage disposal works in two stages received the consideration of your Council. The draft proposals were accepted and the Engineers instructed to forward the necessary application to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and the Norfolk County Council.

Your Council have no scheme in operation for the emptying of cesspools in the district. Arrangements are made with the adjoining Rural Council to empty cesspools when necessary, the owners of the cesspool paying the Rural Council direct for the service.

#### Refuse Collection and Disposal.

The collection of household refuse is carried out by direct labour. One motor vehicle, a 7 cubic yard "Karrier", and 2 men are employed on the work which consists of emptying weekly:-

147 pailclosets, and  
1282 dustbins.

During the year 17 pailclosets or vaults were converted to waterclosets, but of these only 4 were in the scavenging area. Eight pailclosets in the scavenging area were added to the list during the year. These had not previously been emptied by your workmen. This explains the rise in the number of pailclosets over last years figure.

Of the 147 pailclosets emptied by your workmen 105 are situated where water and sewer are available and they could be connected to these services; 40 are outside the area of sewer and water and without extension of the services connections will not be possible. In the case of two in Tuttles Lane, sewer is available but water is some distance away.

Another factor having a bearing on the conversion of the closets is the condition of the properties concerned, and of the 105 mentioned above at least half these are very poor cottages which would not be repairable at reasonable expense. It is very doubtful, therefore, whether these cottages are worth the expense of closet conversions.

Trade refuse is also collected from a number of business premises for which service the owners are charged 6d. in the £ of the rateable value of the premises.

The scavenging area has not been extended during the year and remains the same, viz:-

Norwich Road - as far as the "Old Oak" Public House.  
Browick Road - as far as the Council houses.  
Silfield Road - as far as Colls Farm.  
London Road - including the two cottages near Longfields House.  
Cavick Road - as far as the river.  
To the North of the Town, Tuttles Lane is roughly the limit of collection.

The question of extending the scavenging area to the localities of Sutton, Spooner Row and Silfield Street was again considered in September and it was decided that it was not economically possible to put such a scheme into operation at the present time.

The refuse tip is situated in Strayground Lane and as reported last year



it was your Council's intention to close this site and purchase land in Rightup Lane for the purpose. This proposal had to be dropped owing to difficulties in acquiring the land and in July it was decided to proceed with the purchase of land adjoining the existing tip.

#### Inspection and Supervision of Food.

##### (a) General.

During the period under review the occupiers of food shops in the district were asked to display in their premises placards requesting customers not to bring dogs into the shops. I am pleased to report that the response was good, with most food traders ready to co-operate.

##### (b). Bakehouses.

The six bakehouses in the district have been visited regularly during the course of the year. An informal notice mentioned in the last report to provide washing facilities and recondition the premises was complied with. An informal notice was served on another to recondition a bakehouse, this was about to be commenced at the end of the year.

##### (c). Ice Cream.

Number of premises registered for the manufacture of ice cream.	Nil.
Number of premises registered for the sale of ice cream.	17.
Number of samples taken for bacteriological examination.	12.

<u>Grade.</u>	<u>No. of Samples.</u>
I.	8.
II.	2.
III.	2.
IV.	-

##### (d). Fish Shops.

There are 3 wet fish shops and 4 fried fish shops in the district. 2 informal notices were served with regard to dampness and defective plasterwork. Both were complied with during the year.

##### (e). Slaughter Houses and Butchers Shops.

Two slaughter houses in the district are used for the occasional slaughter of pigs for home consumption by agreement with the Ministry of Food.

The owner of one of the slaughter houses agreed to provide a sink and main water for use in the slaughter house but no work has yet been carried out.

The butchers shops have been inspected regularly and in one case an owner agreed to provide a sink, lay on main water and convert the existing pailcloset to a watercloset, this work is not yet in hand.

A complaint was received of the condition of an allocation of beef delivered to the town. Five carcasses of beef, subsequently found to have been slaughtered in the Birmingham area, were found to be in a most unsatisfactory state, being extremely dirty and in very poor condition. The unsound and dirty meat was trimmed off causing a wastage of 275 lbs. of beef, and in addition 5 beasts heads and a kidney were also condemned. Your Medical Officer of Health immediately brought the matter to the attention of the Ministry of Food in London for investigation. No further complaints have been received.

##### (f). Public Houses.

New sanitary conveniences were provided at 3 public houses in the district, following the survey of last year. There are however still notices outstanding on 6 public houses to improve sanitary accommodation.

Food condemned during 1952.

5 Beasts Heads.	13 tins Luncheon Meat.
1 Beasts Kidney.	2 tins Ham.
275 lbs. Beef trimmings.	2 tins Ham and Veal Loaf.
23 lbs. Mutton.	5 tins Milk.
12 lbs. Beef Sausage Meat.	1 tin Salmon.
3 tins Fat Emulsion.	44 Mars Bars.

Factories.

The following table gives details of the number of factories in the district together with notices served to remedy defects found in the course of inspections of the various factories.

<u>Premises.</u>	<u>No. on Register.</u>	<u>Inspections made.</u>	<u>Notices served.</u>
Factories with mechanical power.	45.	91.	8.
Factories without mechanical power.	7.	8.	-
	<u>52.</u>	<u>99.</u>	<u>8.</u>

Number of cases in which defects were found:-

<u>Particulars.</u>	<u>Found.</u>	<u>Remedied.</u>	<u>Referred</u>	
			<u>to H.M. Inspector.</u>	<u>by H.M. Inspector.</u>
Want of cleanliness.	2.	1.	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation.	1.	1.	-	-
Overcrowding.	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences:				
(a) Insufficient.	5.	4.	-	-
(b) Unsuitable.	-	-	-	-
Other Offences.	1.	-	1.	-
	<u>9.</u>	<u>6.</u>	<u>1.</u>	<u>-</u>

Included in the above table are two factories where new sanitary blocks were provided, new water closets, wash basins and main water being made available.

Rodent Control.

The position with regard to rodent control remains the same as last year.

One of the Council's employees, a trained rodent operative, continues to give part time to this service.

Set out below is a copy of the report made to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries on the performance of the Council's functions under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949. The report covers the 12 months period ending 31st. December, 1952.

	<u>Type of Property.</u>				<u>Total.</u>
	<u>L. A.</u>	<u>Dwelling Houses.</u>	<u>Agricul-tural.</u>	<u>Business &amp; Industrial.</u>	
1. Total number of properties in L.A.'s District.	7.	1676.	71.	227.	1981.
2. Number of properties inspected by L.A. as a result (a) of (a) notification or (b) survey (b) or otherwise.	7.	37.	-	5.	42.
		971.	2.	81.	1081.
3. Number of properties under Major (2) found to be infested by rats.	3.	11.	2.	2.	18.
	Minor				
	1.	230.	-	15.	246.

	<u>L. A.</u>	<u>Dwelling Houses.</u>	<u>Agricul- tural.</u>	<u>Business &amp; Industrial.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
4. Number of properties under (2) found to be seriously infected by mice.	-	-	-	-	-
5. Number of infested properties under (3 & 4) treated by the Local Authority.	4.	241.	-	5.	250.

Number of "block" control schemes carried out - 39.

Test Baits were laid in 10% of the manholes of the sewerage system, but as no bait was taken treatment was not continued.

#### Swimming Baths.

During the year simple chlorination of the swimming bath was commenced. Samples of water were taken from the bath, all of those taken after commencement of chlorination were reported as "satisfactory".

One complaint that the water in the swimming pool was unsatisfactory was received, the complaint was subsequently found to be unjustified.

I have the honour to be  
Your obedient Servant,

R. F. HUDSON,

C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.



CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS OF WATER.

Sample received from the Wymondham Urban District Council.

Marked: Wymondham Public Supply, from pumping main of Wymondham  
Waterworks. 5. 11. 52.

Appearance when received: Slight opalescence due to iron.

Odour: Satisfactory.

Reaction: Practically neutral pH 7.4

Taste: Satisfactory.

RESULTS OF CHEMICAL ANALYSIS IN PARTS PER MILLION.

Ammoniacal nitrogen:	0.03
Albuminoid nitrogen:	0.01
Nitrate nitrogen:	Nil.
Nitrite nitrogen:	Nil.
Chlorine as chlorides:	24.0

Opinion: This water is of very good organic quality and free from any sign of pollution. It contains a trace of iron, but the water is quite fit for drinking purposes.

